

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A pre-rinse assembly in shipping package, comprising:
 - a first rigid substrate rendered porous to the passage of air therethrough;
 - a tension spring resting on said substrate;
 - a flexible steel hose disposed through said spring;
 - a rigid shell configured and disposed to cover said spring and said hose and rest against said substrate; and
 - a sheet of flexible material shrink-wrapped over said shell and said substrate and holding said shell against said substrate.
2. (Currently amended) A product as in claim 1, further comprising:
 - a water impermeable sleeve lining the interior of said flexible steel hose; and
 - a connection fitting connected to one end of said flexible steel hose, which is [[and]] at least partially surrounded by a portion of said tension spring.
3. (Previously presented) A product as in claim 1, wherein said shell is composed of material comprising polyvinylchloride having a basis weight of about 1,050 kilograms per cubic meter.
4. (Original) A product as in claim 1, wherein said flexible material comprises a polyethylene having a basis weight in the range of about 920 kilograms per cubic meter to about 950 kilograms per cubic meter.
5. (Withdrawn) A faucet with fittings of a pre-rinse assembly in shipping package, comprising:
 - a first rigid substrate rendered porous to the passage of air therethrough;

a faucet including a tap, said tap including a pair of threaded holes configured for connection in communication with supplied water;

a flexible steel conduit having one end configured to be threaded into at least one of said threaded holes of said tap and having an opposed end configured to be connected to a water supply line;

said faucet and said flexible steel conduit resting against said substrate; and

a riser resting against said substrate;

a finger hook mounted on said riser; and

a sheet of flexible material shrink-wrapped over said faucet, said flexible steel conduit, said riser, said finger hook and said substrate and holding said faucet, said flexible steel conduit, said riser, and said finger hook against said substrate.

6. (Withdrawn) A product as in claim 5, further comprising:

a stand-off having opposed ends;

a wall bracket detachably connected to one end of said stand-off;

said stand-off and said wall bracket resting against said substrate; and

said sheet of flexible material being shrink-wrapped over said stand-off and said wall bracket and holding said stand-off and said wall bracket against said substrate.

7. (Withdrawn) A product as in claim 6, wherein said wall bracket is permanently fixed to said one end of said stand-off.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing a pre-rinse assembly for shipping, comprising:

providing a first rigid substrate that has been rendered porous to the passage of air therethrough;

connecting a fitting to one end of a flexible steel hose;
pre-installing said flexible steel hose through a tension spring with said fitting held by one end of said tension spring;
placing said tension spring onto said substrate;
placing over said spring and said hose a rigid shell configured and disposed to cover said spring and said hose, and resting said shell against said substrate; and
providing a sheet of flexible material configured to cover said substrate and comprising a polyethylene and having a basis weight in the range of about 920 kilograms per cubic meter to about 950 kilograms per cubic meter;
heating said sheet to a temperature in the range of about 70 C to about 110 C;
applying a vacuum to said heated sheet through said air-porous substrate to shrink-wrap said sheet over said shell and said substrate and hold said shell against said substrate while said shell shields said spring and said hose from entanglement with said heated sheet.

9. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 8, further comprising:

before placing said tension spring onto said substrate, lining the interior of said flexible steel hose with a water impermeable sleeve.

10. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing a faucet with fittings of a pre-rinse assembly for shipping, comprising:

providing a first rigid substrate that has been rendered porous to the passage of air therethrough;

placing said faucet onto said substrate;

placing against said substrate at least one flexible steel conduit having one end configured to be connected to said faucet and having an opposed end configured to be connected to a water supply line;

mounting a finger hook to a riser;

placing said finger hook and said riser against said substrate; and

providing a sheet of flexible material configured to cover said substrate and comprising a polyethylene and having a basis weight in the range of about 920 kilograms per cubic meter to about 950 kilograms per cubic meter;

heating said sheet to a temperature in the range of about 70 C to about 110 C;

applying a vacuum to said heated sheet through said air-porous substrate to shrink-wrap said sheet over said faucet, said at least one flexible steel conduit, said riser, said finger hook and said substrate and hold said faucet, said at least one flexible steel conduit, said riser and said finger hook against said substrate.

11. (Withdrawn) A faucet assembly, comprising:

a faucet including an axially extending universal tap having a free end, said faucet defining a first water passage and a second water passage, said tap including a pair of threaded holes, each of said threaded holes extending axially into said universal tap from said free end thereof and being connected in communication with one of said water passages, said tap including a pair of blind holes, each of said blind holes extending axially into said universal tap from said free end thereof;

a flexible steel conduit having one end threaded into at least one of said threaded holes of said tap and an opposed end configured to be connected to a water supply line; and

a flexible seal disposed between said threaded end of said flexible steel conduit and said one threaded hole of said universal tap.

12. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 11, wherein:

at least said axially extending universal tap being formed of forged brass to facilitate precise formation of said pair of threaded holes extending axially into said universal tap from said free end thereof.

13. (Withdrawn) A riser support, comprising:

a stand-off having opposed ends;

a wall bracket detachably fixed to one end of said stand-off;

a riser clamp having opposed ends, one end of said riser clamp defining a riser opening configured to receive and grip the riser, the opposed end of said riser clamp defining a stand-off opening configured to receive and grip the opposed end of said stand-off, said riser clamp including a first mating member and a second mating member, said first mating member defining a pair of first holes; said second mating member defining a pair second holes, each of said second holes of said second mating member being threaded to receive a threaded screw, each said first hole of said first mating member being configured to be aligned with one of said second holes of said second mating member when said riser clamp grips said riser and said stand-off, a first threaded screw inserted through one of said first holes of said first mating member and threaded into one of said second holes of said second mating member, a second threaded screw inserted through the other of said first holes of said first mating member and threaded into the other of said second holes of said second mating member, and

said riser clamp being configured to selectively grip said riser and said stand-off upon tightening of said first threaded screw and said second threaded screw.